

LITERARY NOTES.

The London Echo expresses the hope that when Mr. Walt Whitman gives his estimate of the leading English poets to a London magazine he will give it in prose.

We notice, says *The London Bookseller*, that some booksellers have lost all their customers, and now have only "clients." We suppose they think "client" sounds better than "customer"; just as "arrangement" sounds more genteel than "bankruptcy." The thoughts are akin.

Dr. Robinson's "Spiritual Songs for the Sunday-school" (Scribner & Co.) is having a large sale. The first edition of 10,000 has been succeeded by one of 90,000 copies. Fifty thousand copies have been published of the new series of "Spiritual Songs for the Church and Choir."

An important discovery has just been made in the archives of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is the memoirs of Lucien Bonaparte, all in his own handwriting. They are said to contain curious details of the 18th Brumaire, the day Napoleon overthrew the Directory after his sudden return from Egypt.

A Vienna paper prints a new anecdote of Heinrich Heine. During the years when he was laying the foundations of his poetic fame he was frequently in want of money. Once when he was poverty-stricken he wrote to a friend for help, saying: "If you don't send me fifty thalers at once I shall starve to death and have it charged to your expense."

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Mr. Justin McCarthy draws a striking if rather empirical contrast between Dickens and Thackeray. Dickens, he says, set out on the literary theory that in life everything is better than it looks; Thackeray with the impression that it is worse. They had not only different ideas about art, but also entirely contrasting principles of art. Dickens worked from the externals inward; Thackeray realized the unseen and left the externals to grow of themselves.

The Library Magazine, published by the American Book Exchange, which has heretofore been a reprint of foreign periodical literature, is to be enlarged in its scope so as to include its future issues a number of American articles. The next volume will contain among other articles of American authorship an address on college education by James A. Garfield, delivered at Hiram College some years ago, but never before printed for general circulation.

There has just appeared in London "The Congregationalism of the Last Three Hundred Years as Seen in its Literature," by the Rev. Dr. Henry Martyn Dexter. An extended notice of the book in *The Manchester Examiner* includes this paragraph: "The Americans unite with us a common ancestry in these noble sufferers for conscience sake. They have an additional and intense interest in the Pilgrim Fathers, and those especially who landed at Plymouth Rock. No English Congregationalist can see this memoir of endurance for the truth, nor can he worship in the old South Chapel at Boston, for the first time, without emotion. We are heartily glad that Dr. Dexter has brought together such a mass of information which will be of permanent interest to our New-England cousins as well as to ourselves."

Henry Holt & Co. have one book, in particular, which embodies the element most conducive to the success of a holiday book. It is a volume which parents may buy ostensibly for their children, yet derive as much pleasure and profit from it as the younger people. "The Young Folks' Cyclopaedia of Persons and Places," by John D. Chapman, is a treasury of biography, story and descriptive geography or travel. It tells briefly, in clear and picturesque language, the story of every prominent man of ancient and modern times, and in a compact and handy volume of 900 pages covers the entire ground. It is profusely illustrated, and will be as useful to adults for handy reference as to youths for leisure reading and study. It is furnished with an index, and under the general head of "Story" will be found references to articles explaining all the characters of mythology and folklore. The volume is uniform with the same author's "Cyclopaedia of Common Things," and forms with it a complete young folks' library. The publishers are making an effort to get the book out by December 15, but it may come closely on Christmas.

Not long ago a little girl of a literary turn of mind, residing in a large Western city, sent a short story to a prominent child's publication. Unlike most first efforts of young novelists, its chief fault was bold originality. The plot of the story was as follows:

A certain little boy was exceedingly fond of a certain little girl, and as soon as they could get their troublesome school-books out of the way and see the great world fairly before them, they were made man and wife in the most orthodox fashion. But it happened that the parents of the young husband moved away from that city and settled further West, and they took him along with them. The little wife was too young to leave her mother, and remained behind. However, after three years had elapsed, the faithful husband shook off the tyranny of the parental home and returned to his expectant bride. The first meeting was very affecting. "See," said he, "in token of my love, I bring you five live boys." And she, with equal pride, exclaimed: "I too have not been idle; I have seven small children!" This work of fiction is significant, as it reveals a tendency on the part of the rising school of imaginative authors to break away from the trammels of realism and science and to seek after a truly edifying optimism.

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••••• A few copies of 1878 issue may still be had, same price.

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HENRY HOLT & CO., N. Y.

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